

Signs Before the Dajjāl Will Appear

The Arabs will be Few

Imām Muslim collected a ḥadīth from Umm Shurayk (رضي الله عنها) in which she heard the prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) saying:

« لَيَفِرَنَّ النَّاسُ مِنَ الدَّجَالِ فِي الْجِبَالِ »

People will flee from the Dajjāl into the mountains.

Umm Shurayk asked, “Messenger of Allah, where will Arabs be at that time?” He (صلى الله عليه وسلم) replied:

« هُمْ قَلِيلٌ »

They will be few.¹

Severe Fighting & the Conquest of Constantinople

Abū Dāwūd and Aḥmad collected a ḥadīth narrated from Mu’adh Ibn Jabal (رضي الله عنه) in which Allah’s messenger (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said:

¹ Collected by Muslim, Aḥmad, and al-Tirmidhī

« عُمَرَانُ بَيْتِ الْمُقَدِّسِ خَرَابٌ يُثْرِبُ ، وَخَرَابٌ يُثْرِبُ خُرُوجُ الْمَلْحَمَةِ ،
وَخُرُوجُ الْمَلْحَمَةِ فَتْحُ قُسْطَنْطِينِيَّةَ ، وَفَتْحُ الْقُسْطَنْطِينِيَّةِ خُرُوجُ الدَّجَالِ »

The construction of *Bayt al-Maqdis*² will lead to the destruction of *Yathrib* (Madina), the destruction of *Yathrib* will lead to severe fighting, severe fighting will lead to the conquest of Constantinople, and the conquest of Constantinople will lead to the arrival of the Dajjāl.³

al-Munāwī explains in *Fayḍ al-Qadīr*, “The chosen one (Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم) made each one of them (a sign) indicating what is to come after it.”⁴

Several Conquests

Muslim collected a ḥadīth from Jābir Ibn Samurah who narrated from Nāfi’ Ibn ‘Utbah (رضي الله عنهما) who said: I memorized from him (the prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم) four things he said that I can count on my fingers:

« تَغْزُونَ جَزِيرَةَ الْعَرَبِ فَيَفْتَحُهَا اللَّهُ ، ثُمَّ فَارِسَ فَيَفْتَحُهَا اللَّهُ ، ثُمَّ تَغْزُونَ
الرُّومَ فَيَفْتَحُهَا اللَّهُ ، ثُمَّ تَغْزُونَ الدَّجَالَ فَيَفْتَحُهَا اللَّهُ »

You will fight against the Arabian Peninsula and Allah will open it for you (allowing you to conquer it), then Persia and Allah will open it. Then you will

² Interestingly, Jewish eschatology holds that a sign of their awaited Messiah (Hebrew: *mashiah*, *mashiach*) is the reconstruction of the Third Temple, or Ezekiel's Temple (*Beit ha Mikdash*) in Jerusalem. Today, the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock sit on top of the Temple Mount. (*Secrets of Jerusalem's Temple Mount*, Kathleen Ritmeyer, 1998)

³ Collected by Abū Dāwūd and Aḥmad and al-Albānī says it is *ḥasan* in *Ṣaḥīḥ Sunan Abī Dāwūd* (no. 3609)

⁴ *Fayḍ al-Qadīr*, (4/360-361)

fight against Rome and Allah will open it. Then you will fight the Dajjāl and Allah will allow you to conquer him.

Nāfi' then said to Jābir, "We used not to think the Dajjāl would appear until after Rome is conquered."⁵

Drought & Famine

Ibn Mājah collected from Abū Umāmah al-Bāhilī (رضي الله عنه) that the messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said in a long ḥadīth:

«...وَأَنَّ قَبْلَ خُرُوجِ الدَّجَالِ ثَلَاثَ سِنَوَاتٍ شِدَادٍ ، يُصِيبُ النَّاسَ فِيهَا جُوعٌ شَدِيدٌ ، يَأْمُرُ اللَّهُ السَّمَاءَ فِي السَّنَةِ الْأُولَى أَنْ تَحْسِبَ ثُلُثَ مَطَرِهَا ، وَيَأْمُرُ الْأَرْضَ أَنْ تَحْسِبَ ثُلُثَ نَبَاتِهَا ، ثُمَّ يَأْمُرُ السَّمَاءَ فِي السَّنَةِ الثَّانِيَةِ فَتَحْسِبُ ثُلُثِي مَطَرِهَا ، وَيَأْمُرُ الْأَرْضَ فَتَحْسِبُ ثُلُثِي نَبَاتِهَا ، ثُمَّ يَأْمُرُ السَّمَاءَ فِي السَّنَةِ الثَّلَاثَةِ فَتَحْسِبُ مَطَرَهَا كُلَّهُ فَلَا تُقَطِرُ قَطْرَةً ، وَيَأْمُرُ الْأَرْضَ فَتَحْسِبُ نَبَاتَهَا كُلَّهُ فَلَا تُنْبِتُ خَضِرَاءً ، فَلَا تَبْقَى دَاتٌ ظِلْفٍ إِلَّا هَلَكَتْ ، إِلَّا مَا شَاءَ اللَّهُ »

...and before the Dajjāl arrives, there will be three years of hardship during which people will suffer extreme hunger. Allah will command the sky in the first year to withhold one-third of its rain, and he will command the earth to withhold one-third of its vegetation. Then he will command the sky in the second year and it will withhold two-thirds of its rain, and he will command the earth and it will

⁵ Collected by Muslim, Aḥmad, and Ibn Mājah

withhold two-thirds of its vegetation. Allah will then command the sky and it will withhold all of its rain so that not a single drop will fall. And he will command the earth and it will withhold all of its vegetation and not a single green plant will grow. Any hoofed animal remaining at that time will die, except for what Allah wills otherwise.

It was asked, “How will people live at such time?” He (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) answered:

« التَّهْلِيلُ وَالتَّكْبِيرُ وَالتَّحْمِيدُ ، يُجْزَىءُ ذَلِكَ عَلَيْهِمْ مَجْزَأَةَ الطَّعَامِ »

al-Tahlīl, *al-Takbīr*, and *al-Taḥmīd*. Those will replace food for them.⁶



⁶ Collected by Ibn Mājah, Ibn Khuzaymah, and al-Ḥākim, and it is in *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Jāmi' al-Ṣaḥīḥ wa Ziyādatuh* of al-Albānī (no. 7875). As for the meanings of *al-Tahlīl*, *al-Takbīr*, and *al-Taḥmīd*:

al-Tahlīl: The saying of “*Lā illāha illa-Allāh*” (Nothing has the right to be worshipped except Allah.)

al-Takbīr: The saying of “*Allāhu Akbar*” (Allah is the greatest.)

al-Taḥmīd: The saying of “*al-ḥamdulillāh*” (All praise and thanks are for Allah.)